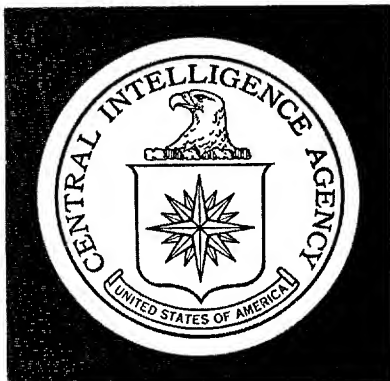


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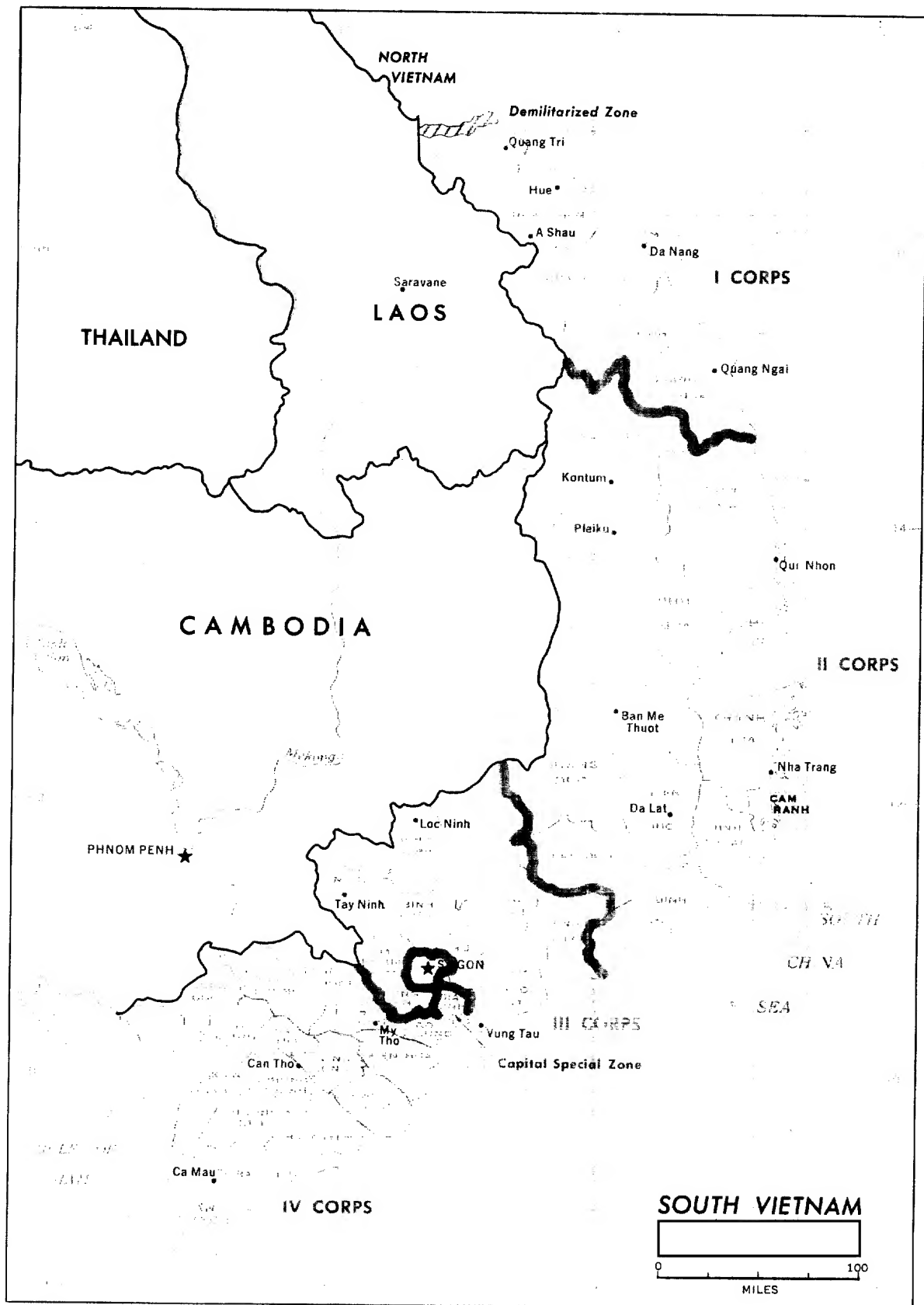
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[Vietnam: Communist forces appear to have pulled back from the battlefield north and northwest of Saigon after taking heavy casualties in several days of hard fighting.

Small enemy units continued, however, to probe and shell allied outposts in other areas of III Corps. Throughout the rest of the country, action was generally light. There were no reported incidents of enemy firing from within the Demilitarized Zone on 30 November - 1 December.

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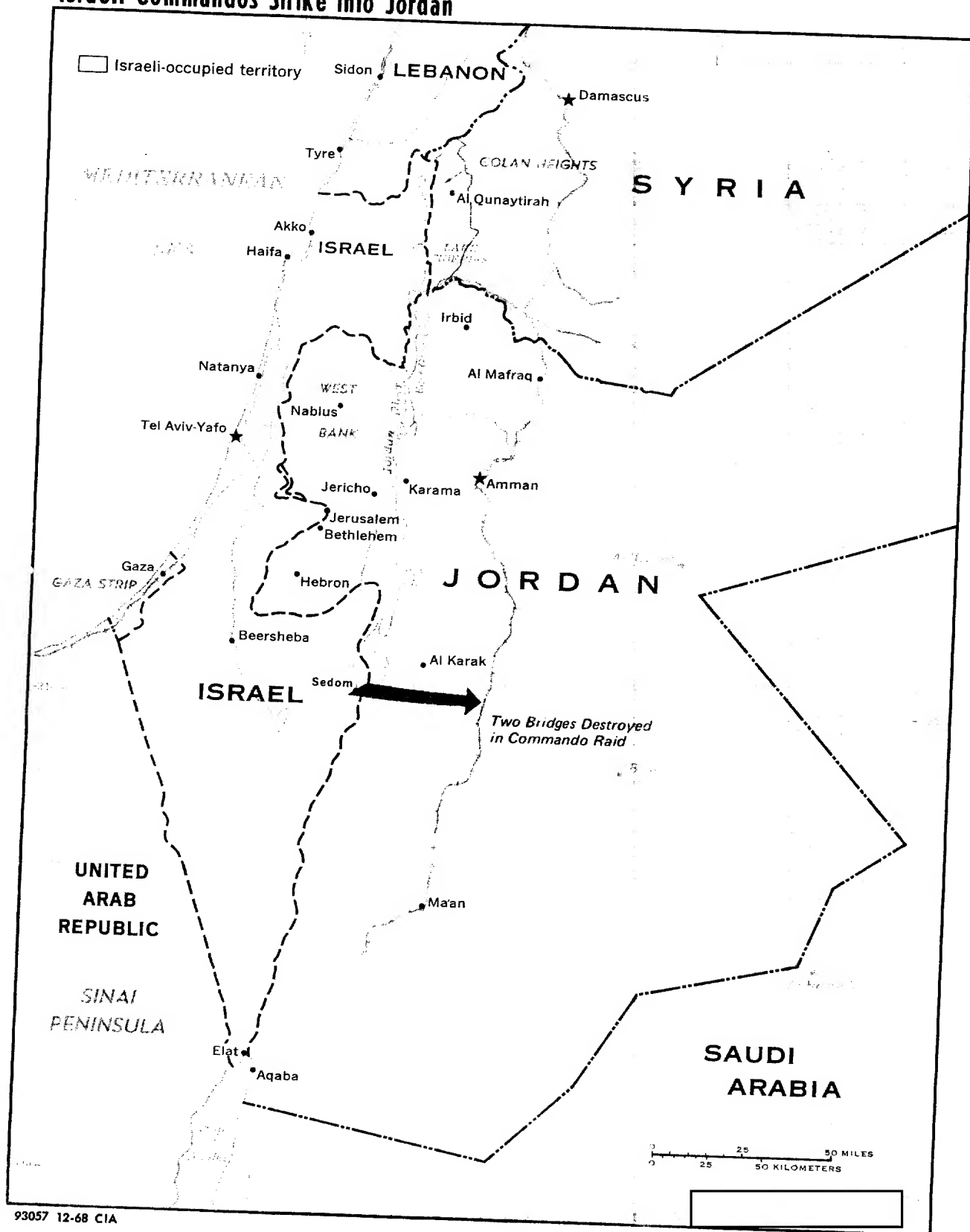
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Israeli Commandos Strike into Jordan



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[Israel: Israeli commandos struck deep into Jordan yesterday and destroyed two bridges on the main road-rail link south from Amman.

An Israeli Army spokesman said only that the raid took place 37 miles east of Sedom, which is at the southern end of the Dead Sea. The railroad bridge is presumably one on the main line which runs down through Amman to Ma'an and toward the Jordanian port of Aqaba. Both spans were 100 feet long. The spokesman said the commando force returned safely. The raid appears similar to the one made deep into Egypt on 1 November when commandos flew in by helicopter and struck at two bridges and a power station on the Nile.

The Israeli spokesman said the raid was in retaliation for the "continuous sabotage activity" against Israel by Arab guerrillas. He said there had been 50 incidents since mid-November. One of these terrorist attacks, which sharply raised tensions in Israel, was the bombing of a Jewish marketplace in west Jerusalem on 22 November when 12 persons were killed.

The action against Jordanian facilities rather than against Arab fedayeen bases suggests a new Israeli tactic, designed perhaps to try to impress on King Husayn the advisability of greater control over the fedayeen. In a statement in the Israeli parliament on 29 November, Minister of Defense Dayan pronounced the Jordanian Government responsible for recent Arab terrorist acts.

The Israeli raid, in addition to raising Arab-Israeli tensions further, seems likely to cast somewhat of a shadow over the return to the area this week of UN special representative Jarring, and over the visit of former Governor Scranton. [REDACTED]

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Arab Terrorists: The trend toward merger and cooperation between terrorist organizations is increasing and may result in a more important role for these groups in Arab-Israeli affairs.

During the last week of November two mergers of terrorist organizations were announced. The Palestine Liberation Organization and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, two of the three major terrorist bodies, will combine with two smaller groups. Earlier in the week the last of another group of small terrorist organizations announced its merger with Fatah, the largest organization. There has already been military cooperation between the major groups since late October when they established a military coordination council in Amman, Jordan.

Besides making peace with one another, the terrorists have also announced that they concluded a 14-point agreement with the Jordanian Government on 19 November. Through this agreement, Amman hopes to assert its control over terrorist activities in Jordan.

Although the groups merging with the major organizations are small, in the aggregate they tend to increase the capabilities, strength, and prestige of those they are joining. More importantly, the elusive unity which Palestinian groups have sought since 1948 and the growing role in Arab-Israeli affairs which would result may have been brought a step closer. Moreover, should the agreement with the Jordanian Government prove to be but a temporary truce, a more unified terrorist movement could pose a still greater threat to King Husayn.

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USSR: The Soviets may be signaling a willingness to talk about an accommodation with Intelsat, the existing international communications satellite consortium.

An article in a recent issue of the Soviet telecommunications industry's leading journal endorses the concept of a single global system, citing both its economic and technical advantages. The article suggests that the principles of such a system can be worked out "if nations are willing to cooperate."

The article avoids any mention of Intersputnik, the international system proposed by the USSR last August. The Soviets had hoped with this proposal to capitalize on the dissatisfaction of those among Intelsat's 63 member nations who consider US control of the organization excessive.

US pre-eminence within Intelsat is assured by the principle that voting strength be apportioned among members in accordance with each country's share of international communications traffic. The key provision of the Soviet proposal is its "one nation - one vote" principle.

The Intersputnik plan was almost immediately overshadowed by the invasion of Czechoslovakia, which immediately provoked an adverse response to the Soviet alternative, and little has been heard about it since.

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Philippines: President Marcos has formally approved the opening of trade with Communist countries, but he appears disposed to delay a decision on diplomatic relations.

Marcos approved on 28 November a recommendation of his foreign policy advisory council for experimental trade with East European countries. Trade, which probably would be channeled through unofficial Philippine organizations, would be limited to agricultural products which the Philippines has found difficult to dispose of in traditional Free World markets.

Although the Marcos administration has junked the traditional Philippine policy of aloofness from the Communist world, no precipitous moves toward diplomatic relations are likely. There is still strong sentiment in the Philippine Government against diplomatic ties. The President on 24 November gave his strongest public endorsement to date to eventual diplomatic relations but said initial contacts would be limited to East Europe. Marcos may defer any decision on diplomatic contacts until after the presidential elections of November 1969.

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Nicaragua: Prospective year-end cabinet changes are probably a prelude to a further extension of President Somoza's personal power, and perhaps his term of office as well.

The pending changes include two of the more capable and ambitious members of the ruling Nationalist Liberal Party. Vice President and Minister of Public Works Callejas will become minister of government, an obscure post under a strong executive; and Minister of Education Sacasa, a presidential aspirant, will apparently be dropped from the cabinet entirely.

Somoza's five-year term ends in 1972, but there have been persistent rumors that a constitutional convention will convene next year and "legally" extend his term. The removal of Callejas and Sacasa will not only make the two important ministries more responsive to Somoza's personal control, but would lessen potential opposition to a constitutional convention.

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Brazil: The Costa e Silva government's effort to lift the congressional immunity of an opposition deputy is again raising fears that the administration will adopt more rigorously authoritarian measures. The government wants to prosecute the deputy for a speech he made in Congress that was highly critical of the government and its military backers. The government's pressure tactics have angered many congressmen, and the odds are now only about even that Congress will cancel the deputy's immunity. If Congress fails to grant permission for the trial, the President may be forced to take more drastic action--perhaps going as far as bypassing the Constitution and declaring a new "institutional act"--to satisfy the intense pressure being brought to bear by military leaders. [REDACTED]

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Portugal: Prime Minister Caetano's first "state of the Republic" speech to the legislature on 27 November was warmly received by government supporters, but opposition circles are disappointed. He reiterated the theme of his inaugural address not to abandon the objectives of the Salazar government while finding new ways of alleviating social and economic problems. Almost half of the speech was devoted to a re-affirmation of Portugal's African policy. The more liberal aspects of his improvement plans were modified by reference to the intended continuation of an austerity policy, to the Communist menace in Africa, and to anarchic influence in the education system. [REDACTED]

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